

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educators)	CONSENT ORDER
)	
Certificate of Stephanie B. Brown)	OF SUSPENSION
)	
Certificate # 180766)	

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 13, 2003. On October 31, 2002, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina Educators Certificate (certificate) to Stephanie B. Brown by certified mail, return receipt requested delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Brown received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. Ms. Brown initially requested a hearing, but through her attorney, Carl L. Solomon, Esquire, subsequently agreed with the Department to propose the following resolution of this matter to the State Board: (1) her license will be suspended from the time of her suspension from employment on March 7, 2002, through July 31, 2003, and (2) the suspension will be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all school districts in South Carolina as a suspension on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to accept the resolution proposed by the parties.

Accepted

Initial Here

Stephanie B.
Brown
#180766

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Brown holds a valid South Carolina certificate, and has over six years of teaching experience. During the 2001-2002 school year, she was under contract with Barnwell School District Forty-Five as an English and Drama teacher at Barnwell High School. Ms. Brown was placed on administrative leave with pay on March 7, 2002, and resigned from the District effective May 31, 2002, following an investigation into allegations that she had an inappropriate relationship with a seventeen-year old male student. Upon further investigation the Department learned that Ms. Brown was reprimanded in 1998 for issues of a similar nature when she was a teacher at Williston-Elko High School. In the letters of reprimand her supervisors also recognized her ability and potential to be an excellent teacher. Ms. Brown denies the relationships were inappropriate, but is willing to accept the terms of this order in an attempt to continue her teaching career.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The South Carolina State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (1990). Just cause includes: “Unprofessional conduct,” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regulation 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented by the Department, supports its decision to accept the proposal of the parties to suspend Ms. Brown’s teaching certificate from March 7, 2002, through July 31 2003, on the terms and conditions outlined above. At the end of the suspension period, Ms. Brown’s certificate will be reinstated upon her written request to the Office of Teacher Education and Certification of the Department.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Greg Killian
Greg Killian
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

May 13, 2003

I, Stephanie B. Brown, SC Teaching Certificate # 180766, do hereby agree to the proposed Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Tuesday, May 13, 2003.

/S/ Stephanie B. Brown
Stephanie B. Brown

5/12/03
Date